

December 15
1927

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'
MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"See that ye are not baptized unworthily; see that ye partake not of the sacrament of Christ unworthily; but see that ye do all things in worthiness, and do it in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God; and if ye do this, and endure to the end, ye will in nowise be cast out." MORMON 9: 29.

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Thursday, December 15, 1927

Price One Penny

HEAVEN'S WISDOM OVERRULES*

ELDER JOHN A. WIDTSOE

NOTE: Preceding the address given by Elder John A. Widtsoe, which is reproduced below, President Heber J. Grant made the following statement:

In announcing the changes that have taken place during the last six months I overlooked a most important change; namely, Brother James E. Talmage, of the Council of the Twelve, has been honourably released, with his good wife, to return home from presiding over the European Mission, and Brother John A. Widtsoe and his wife will succeed them in presiding over the Mission and the Relief Society in that great Mission. We will now hear from Brother John A. Widtsoe.

Elder Widtsoe spoke as follows:

My brethren and sisters: President Grant has announced the call which has come to me, and I wish to say that it always has been a great privilege to me to serve in the work of the Master. I am glad to obey the request that has been made of me and shall go forth, with mine, to do the best we can in behalf of this high and holy cause. Like every other Elder in Israel called to serve, I feel humble and incapable of my own strength to accomplish the work that lies before me; but I have faith, I may say absolute faith, in the inspiration that guides this Church and Kingdom, and I know that throughout the ages the Lord has made use of the weak things of the earth to accomplish mighty

*Address delivered at the second session of the Ninety-eighth Semi-annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U. S. A., October 7th, 1927.

purposes. With that faith I go forth gladly at the request and call and under the authority of those who preside in Zion, with the prayer in my heart that good may come of the action taken.

OUR OBLIGATION TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

I recognize, with Elder McKay, who spoke briefly on the subject this morning, that we are under obligation to preach the Gospel to all the world. Every person must hear the truth; every honest heart must be warned. It is our bounden duty, from which we may not and cannot escape, to do this work. Throughout the world there are hosts of honest hearts who love and seek the truth but who are so hedged about by the traditions of their fathers and by the conditions of their lives that they find it difficult to recognize the truth when it is placed before them. It is not only a privilege to attempt to break down this barrier which stands between truth and untruth, but it is also a solemn obligation and a heavy responsibility. Many years ago in the days of my early boyhood I came out of the European countries into this blessed land, blessed above all other lands, to live here. As my memory goes back to my mother country, and later to the days I spent in the European countries in my early manhood as a student, I feel that there are in those countries a very great number, perhaps untold hosts, of men and women, children of God, honest souls, whom we may reach if the Lord will but assist us in our labours.

GOD OVERRULES ALL THINGS FOR HIS PURPOSES

I was impressed this morning by the remarks made by President Ivins, that throughout all the ages of history the hand of God has overruled the actions of mankind, that nothing is done except as the Lord may use it for the accomplishment of His mighty purposes. No truth has become more living in my soul throughout my life than this. I have little belief in chance, little belief that things happen just because we, often stupid people, do certain work in our blindness. The things accomplished by humanity become in the end God's accomplishments as He makes use of them in working out His infinite purposes. So, with respect to this great missionary activity to which we have devoted so much of our strength from the beginning of this dispensation, I cannot help but believe that the mighty changes that have come in this latest day of civilization, the vast physical, economic and social changes, have all been brought about through the goodness of the Lord for the accomplishment of His latter-day work. The printing press came into existence, and by it the word of God has been brought to all people. Then in this day, when the Lord has restored the gifts and blessings of the Gospel and the organization of the Church, have come other marvelous means by which we may speak the eternal truth in our keeping to all the

world. The steamship came that we may carry the truth from continent to continent, across the great oceans; the railway, that we may deliver the same everlasting truth to every part of every land; the telephone and the telegraph and now the radio, that we may spread the truth of the Gospel over all the world. In time we shall be able to utilize all these agencies to bear our witness to the peoples of the world, that we may stand free from blame before our Maker in the last great day.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF ZION

The Spirit of God is upon the face of the earth; it enters the hearts of men. That Spirit tempers human acts and impels humanity to actions of righteousness. That same Spirit serves as a powerful preparatory agent for us in our gospel labours. In fact, the most important thing for every person engaged in this great latter-day work is that we do rely upon the assistance of the Spirit of God. No man can safely stand on his own strength in the holy labour assigned to us, but we must stand before our daily duty with the knowledge that the Spirit of God is within our reach to assist us, to bless us and to carry us on in our labours.

OPPORTUNITY AND TEMPTATION

We were all deeply impressed this morning by the message of President Grant and of those who elaborated the thoughts in his opening address. This is indeed a day of wonderful blessings for humanity, but correspondingly of great temptations. When much light is given, the contrasting darkness is also deep; while there are present immeasurable opportunities for service, there are also temptations to do evil such as never before have been known. This condition has existed in all ages. The battle between righteousness and wickedness has always been waged actively. It is our duty, our business as a chosen people, to teach righteousness and truth forever and forever to the world until the end shall come. When we teach righteousness the key to our conquest of evil will be the application of the few simple principles that constitute the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is not a complicated system, but is simple and easily understood. It may be brought into the hearts of men; it may be used in their daily lives; and if we use the simple principles of the Gospel in fighting wickedness and in establishing righteousness our course will be well set and our success will be fairly promised.

EVIDENCE OF TRUTH LIES WITHIN

During the last few weeks I have been reading, with my brethren and sisters throughout the Church, the glorious book of doctrine known as the Book of Mormon, which came into the hands of the Prophet one hundred years ago. In that book we

find over and over a repetition of the methods by which wickedness may be overcome; for throughout that whole book runs the great message that, in the words of Alma, wickedness or sin is never happiness. The beginning of our teaching to those who tend to depart from righteousness is that out of unrighteousness man may never win happiness, and happiness is the most fundamental and choicest desire of humanity.

In my reading of the Book of Mormon I am always reminded that the witness of the truth of this work—restored through the instrumentality of the Prophet Joseph Smith—lies within the work itself. One does not have to go into external places for proof, since within the work itself, within its doctrines and organization, lies the most convincing witness of the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Book of Mormon itself, I have no doubt, within the next few years will be corroborated by all manner of discoveries. Men are digging in the earth; things are found that we did not dream of a few years ago. A man voiced the opinion a few days ago—a visiting Englishman—that every new discovery in American archæology tends to confirm the truth of the Book of Mormon. We shall use such finds and discoveries for the establishment in the hearts of seekers after truth of the correctness of the Book of Mormon. Yet within the book itself there lies in the history it tells, in the doctrines it sets forth and in the pictures that it paints, the most convincing evidence of its truth. I have always felt that the best approach to the Gospel of Jesus Christ is through the study of the internal evidences, found within the Doctrine and Covenants and the Book of Mormon.

ETERNAL TRUTHS IN THE BOOK OF MORMON

There are only two kinds of books in the world. First, the kind that last for a day, published by the tens of thousands, but having only a momentary existence, then passing away. The other kind of books are few in number, written and produced under the inspiration of divine power; they live on throughout the ages. They are the books that contain principles of eternal truth, the doctrines that live and last, that satisfy the needs of humanity irrespective of time and age. They become the permanent possession of mankind and shape the destinies of mankind. In the Book of Mormon we have just such a book—one which contains those eternal, true principles that may be read upon all occasions in all emergencies and in all ages. It belongs with the Bible to the class of everlasting writings. The religious classics of the world have survived the centuries and have influenced the destinies of mankind because they contain perhaps a grain here and a grain there of such eternal truth. The Book of Mormon does not deal with trivial things—the battles and

contests, the conquests of the enemy and the treaties made, the many difficulties of history, form merely a background against which the principles that really make the book are illustrated. The teachings of the Book of Mormon appear against a narrative of historical events, but the events are of little consequence in comparison with the lessons that are taught for man's guidance in any day.

MEANS OF SOLVING OUR PRESENT PROBLEMS

Keys to the solution of the difficult problems that were discussed this morning—none more difficult in the course of history—are found in the Book of Mormon in a few simple teachings that are presented over and over again. First, there is constant teaching against atheism and all unbelief, and for belief in the existence of God and His Son Jesus Christ; and there is teaching that a definite plan has been proposed by God, our Heavenly Father, for the salvation of His children. I am not so certain but that to-day the most dangerous enemy to truth is the feeling on the part of some men that they must dedicate their strength to destroy faith in God. Within the last two years one of the great States of the Union has authorized by law the formation of an association for the advancement of atheism, an organization apparently supplied with ample funds, formed for the purpose of proving to the American Nation that there is no God. We cannot solve our social or economic problems except upon the basis of faith in the existence of God and man's relationship to his Father in heaven. Therefore, we do not hesitate as a people to teach all the world faith in God, which by this time should be as much a part of man as the blood and bone and marrow of his physical organism. Out of the pages of Nephite days comes also the lesson that men dwindle in unbelief and become wicked and practise evil if they allow themselves to become unequal in their social and economic relationships. This is a land of liberty, yet we are beginning, though we are founded upon the doctrine of equality, to have classes of the wealthy, the learned, the powerful, and of those who have neither power nor wealth nor station. This Church teaches the equality of humanity, teaches that the Lord loves all His children equally if they but do His will, teaches that He reaches out for us all and that the glorious destiny of a place near Him is for all if we only make use of that which He has offered us. In this marvelous book there is a third warning, already discussed here. When men begin to defy the laws of the land and the laws of God—usually two aspects of the same inclination—when lawlessness grows and increases, then men and women begin to depart from the truth. Some will call themselves better than others in their own estimation; their faith in God diminishes; soon they are overwhelmed by the difficulties that of necessity come to the disobedient, and ultimately they

will receive the terrible punishment quoted this morning by Brother Roberts from the Book of Mormon.

TESTIMONY

I bear testimony to you, my brethren and sisters, that I know the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true. It is dear to me. It has helped me in times of joy and in times of sorrow. It has been like a great beacon light to guide me in all the affairs of my life, not merely in the Church but in those beyond the Church, in matters of State and of private concern. I have found it possible to use the simple principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for my upbuilding and strengthening, for bringing me into closer communion with the great unseen universe, which, after all, is the great concern of everlasting life. I am grateful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I am always thankful that missionaries were sent into my native land, grateful that my mother, throbbing with faith, had courage to receive the Gospel and go into the waters of baptism, to leave her home and friends and relatives and many other loved ones. I am grateful for the thousands of Latter-day Saints who have done likewise, who, either in person or by their children, make up this vast congregation. We are children of faithful and courageous parents who have opened the door to us and made clear to us the joy of accepting and living the eternal truth of God. This Church is the bearer of truth. God bless us and make us steadfast in the truth. May we walk always according to our best light before our Father in heaven, I pray, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

ADDRESS BY GENERAL CHARLES P. SUMMERALL

CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

NOTE: This address was delivered at the third session of the Ninety-eighth Semi-annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, U. S. A., on October 8th, 1927. President Heber J. Grant introduced the General, who spoke as follows.—Editor.

President Grant and friends: It is a very distinct honour to appear in this noble temple [the Tabernacle], the fame of which is known throughout civilization, and to look into the faces of the men and women who represent the sterling citizenship of this great State of Utah. While I am not a stranger to your people, this is the first opportunity afforded to bring to you as a representative of the army of our country a greeting and an expression of appreciation for what the people of your faith have done as patriotic citizens throughout your history in the service of our country. Many, many years ago it was my privilege to number

among my friends and my comrades in arms men who represented not only the high ideals of the faith of your Church, but the high ideals of officers and soldiers of the army of our country.

Our nation is great not because of any material development of the people so much as by the lofty faith of the religious denominations throughout our great land. It is the religion of a people which has ever marked its civilization. One cannot traverse your state and see its productive fields, its prosperous and happy homes, its attractive and rapidly growing cities, without realizing that there is a guiding hand and a great influence over the minds of its population. They have achieved great industrial development. Their educational system is second to none. This morning I was only a few minutes in your University, and yet I was profoundly impressed by the educational standards, under the dominant leadership of Dr. Thomas, which must make you indeed very proud. You are guiding the footsteps and the minds of the rising generation along the paths which you and those who preceded you have found to be essential to make a noble, a powerful, a pious and a God-fearing people.

I stand before you, therefore, with reverence at your accomplishments, with admiration of your ideals and with a sense of pride that I, too, am with you a citizen of this great land. We share love of country and the flag and patriotic loyalty with our fellow-citizens wherever they may be found. It is a noble tribute to your faith and to your convictions that we find to-day so many who have laid aside the burdens of their daily lives to come together for religious devotion in order that they may make better, not only their own lives, but the state and the country in which they live.

Let me thank you, indeed, from the bottom of my heart, for this privilege and the hope that I may continue to enjoy the friendship of your people and the support that we need from you in carrying out the great mission of making our country safe for us and those who come after us. Thank you.

President Grant then acknowledged the complimentary remarks of General Summerall thus:

I regard it as a great honour to have listened to the very splendid compliments that have been paid our people. I rejoice in knowing that there are no people in all the United States of America who are really more patriotic than the Latter-day Saints, or more willing to perform every duty that devolves upon them; and where the members of our people have been in the army or the navy they have made a record second to none.

I FIND the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving.—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1927

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT OF SWEDISH MISSION

IN NOVEMBER 1926 we announced the appointment of ELDER ANDREW JOHNSON to the presidency of the Swedish Mission. We have now to say that after over thirteen months spent in efficient service President Johnson has been honourably released to return to his home in Utah. Prior to his installation as President, Elder Johnson had laboured for over two years as a Traveling Elder and District leader in the course of the second mission he has served in his native land.

We heartily greet PRESIDENT GIDEON N. HULTERSTROM as the newly-appointed head of the Swedish Mission, who now enters upon his second administration in that important position, he having been released from his former presidency in July, 1923. President Hulterstrom and family arrived in Stockholm during the closing days of November. We bespeak for him the best possible support on the part of the missionaries and resident members of the Church in Sweden.—J. E. T.

CANCER

AMONG THE DISEASES most dreaded by man is cancer. Medical and surgical science acknowledges its inability to meet this stealthy foe with any fair prospect of gaining a decisive victory. Notable successes have been achieved in dealing with other diseases, some of which ranked higher than cancer in their relative toll of human lives, among which are tuberculosis, small-pox, cholera, diphtheria, pneumonia and influenza—all of which with many more have been virtually conquered, so that if their attacks are promptly met with treatment of proved efficacy the chances are many to one that the patient will recover. Not so yet with cancer; the probabilities are many on the side of victory for the disease, which means death for the victim. However valiant and aggressive the defending physicians and surgeons may be they are at a disadvantage through ignorance as to the tactics of their cruel enemy—in other words they do not know the prime cause of the malady.

The record of relevant facts, observed and tested, is constantly growing; and from these many valuable inferences have been drawn as to predisposing causes, or conditions that contribute

to the development of cancer; but the actual source of this scourge on humanity is yet to be discovered. There is abundant evidence that any and all conditions tending to lower the vitality of the body, to undermine health in general, make the human organism receptive to cancer—as is true with respect to other afflictions. Eminent authorities in medicine affirm that the use of tobacco and of alcoholic drinks opens the way for cancerous invasion. Among the facts of outstanding importance, emphasized in recent and current publications on the subject, are these:

Cancer does not attack tissues or organs that are healthy.

Irritation of the tissues, whether continuous or of frequent recurrence, predisposes such tissues to cancerous infection.

From the first of these generalizations it is plain that cancer thrives in bodies otherwise diseased. From the second it is equally clear that unnatural stimulation of bodily tissues is a treasonable offense in that it treacherously opens the gates of the citadel to the waiting foe.

These remarks are applicable to spiritual cancer, and as truly so as to the physical malady. A state of disordered spirituality predisposes its victim to specific attacks that may become incurable. Quarrelsomeness, fault-finding, disaffection or dissension in any form may develop into malignant diseases of the soul—a cancer that may fasten itself upon a vital organ. Hereby we should be taught!—J. E. T.

NOW LET US REJOICE—AND WORK HARDER

NEARLY A CENTURY has passed since the Church of Jesus Christ was organized on earth under divine commission and supervision in this last dispensation. The period from 1830 to 1927 has been one of diversified happenings of deep significance.

Hardship, famine, exposure, slander, mobbings, deprivation of property, open insult and rank injustice—these and other ills have been endured by men and women who have embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but withal, progress has not been halted—the Church has steadily grown in numbers, strength and influence, gaining the esteem of nations and peoples by reason of its worth—comprising demonstrated truths and worthy accomplishments. One by one the old methods of persecution have met natural deaths or have killed themselves by the fury of their own attacks, but the Church, the intended victim, has marched onward and upward to the position of preeminence it now occupies.

Prejudice has been largely allayed; press comments are generally impartial and even favorable; publishers have not only abandoned old-time misrepresentations, but now frequently give

space to doctrines of the Church presented in true perspective. Falsifiers who once waxed fat on the proceeds of morbid writings pertaining to the so-called "Mormons" have sunk into sullen silence as their pernicious stories have become trite, unmarketable, and discredited by intelligent people who are better informed in this day of rapid communication and general travel.

Governments look with tolerance upon us, because practical religion—the everyday living of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—produces progressive, law-abiding, clean-living, energetic and in every way desirable citizens. Mob violence upon our missionaries is a thing now to be read about in records of the past. In a gratifying degree ignorance has made way for enlightenment; truth has supplanted error—in short, the Church of Jesus Christ in this dispensation has weathered a storm of more than ninety-seven years and is now enjoying the most peaceful and prosperous period of its history.

In other ways also unprecedented advantages are enjoyed, which in large measure facilitate the spreading of the gospel message. Vehicles of rapid transportation carry our missionaries from country to country or from village to village and make possible the reaching of thousands who were otherwise inaccessible. Common use of the radio has enabled our preachers to appeal to unseen audiences that formerly would have required untold labour to reach. Favourable international relations now render admission to civilized countries easy. Cheaper methods of printing have made possible the distribution of literature on a scale surpassing the dreams of our predecessors. The guiding influence of the Almighty may be recognized in all and through all; the Lord is shaping events and overruling conditions for the upbuilding of His Church and people and for the consummation of His far-reaching purposes.

This is a time for rejoicing, but the blessings enumerated do not warrant cessation or rest. That grave danger lurks in apathy is attested by history. Notwithstanding the greater benefits enjoyed when all is tranquil, peace-time accomplishments rarely reach the maximum of possibility, because, when danger from without has passed, a feeling of false security and a spirit of complacency and laxity may arise within. This inward slackening or sloth has led men and nations from exalted stations to ignominy.

The arch-deceiver is employing one of his nefarious and subtle tricks that has proved effective in times previous; and although no man of himself can clearly foresee future happenings, the signs of the times, interpreted in the light of inspired prediction, indicate clouds of foreboding appearance ahead. The present lull will not last forever.

Rejoice in the good gifts of the Lord and let cooperation and diligence accomplish great and marvelous works in this time of peace and facility.—RICHARD L. EVANS.

DIFFICULT—BUT WHY ?

AMONG the newspaper cuttings that have come to the editorial desk is one from the *London Record* of December 1st. Here it is :

The Rev. C. Swanson, of Lethbridge, Alberta, who was sent out and trained for the ministry in Canada under the Colonial and Continental Church Society, has been created Archdeacon of Lethbridge. The new Archdeacon has seen service in the Yukon, in British Columbia and elsewhere. His present charge is a most difficult one, for Southern Alberta is a great stronghold of Mormonism.

The concluding statement suggests a query as to why difficulty should be anticipated for the Reverend Archdeacon of Lethbridge. The only reason intimated is that the field to which he has been assigned "is a great stronghold of Mormonism." From our knowledge of the "Mormon" people in general and of those living in the Province of Alberta in particular we can give positive assurance that neither the newly-appointed Archdeacon of Lethbridge nor anyone else, clergymen or otherwise, will find there any difficulty asserting itself in the nature of intolerance, lack of respect for individual rights of conscience, opposition to any form of religious worship not infringing upon the rights of those who do not choose to follow it, unwillingness to cooperate in benevolent work whether directed to relief of individual distress, to civic betterment or community uplift, or opposition to anything that is worthy and good.

On the other hand, if the Archdeacon of Lethbridge has gone into his new field with the prime purpose of converting the Latter-day Saints to a form of godliness devoid of the power thereof he has certainly set for himself a difficult task. He will encounter difficulties insuperable, problems insoluble, and will meet disappointment and defeat if he sets his heart on turning the Latter-day Saints against the faith of their fathers, inducing them to exchange the sure word of prophecy and revelation for the vain philosophy and miscalled science of man's theological lore, or persuading them to turn from the Church of the living God to any institution of human design and construction. As to whether the reverend gentleman finds difficulty in propaganda and pastoral effort among the Latter-day Saints depends wholly upon himself.—J. E. T.

Past Arrivals and Assignments: Owing to a change in the *Star* staff a party of missionaries that arrived in Liverpool aboard the *Montclare* on March 5th last was not given mention. Though belated, the names are given below to make the record in this year's volume complete.

For the British Mission—DeLamar Holt, Salt Lake City, Utah,

to the Hull District; Morris D. Ogden, Richfield, Utah, to the Leeds District.

For the German-Austrian Mission—James R. Brown, Salt Lake City, Utah; Raphael B. Greenwood, American Fork, Utah; Wayland Hand, Salt Lake City, Utah; Lowell Y. Morris, Salt Lake City, Utah.

For the Netherlands Mission—M. Elmo Carr, Oakland, California; Gerrit Vander Waard, Ogden, Utah; Johanna Vander Waard, Ogden, Utah.

For the Swiss-German Mission—James C. Ellsworth, Long Beach, California; Henry Hollinderbanmer, Salt Lake City, Utah; Clarence C. Neslen, Salt Lake City, Utah; George J. Ross, Salt Lake City, Utah.

THE NEWCASTLE CONFERENCE

A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE of the Newcastle District was held at Crown Hall, South Shields, on December 4th, 1927. President James E. Talmage and Sister May Booth Talmage from Mission headquarters were in attendance, together with President Orson H. Berrett and the thirteen Traveling Elders of the District.

An inspiring and entertaining program, centered around the Book of Mormon, was given in tableau and recitation. Thirteen members of the South Shields Branch Sunday School told of prophecies in the Nephite record concerning the birth of Jesus Christ, the discovery of America by Columbus, the founding of a mighty nation upon the land of Zion and the coming forth of the Gospel in the last days. The fulfilment of these inspired writings was likewise shown. The recitations made plain the following points concerning the Book of Mormon: What it is, how we got it and the purpose of its existence. Prophecies from the Old Testament concerning its coming forth were also cited.

President Talmage commended all who had helped to make the program a success. He explained the term "Mormon" and the name "Christian", giving the meaning of the latter in the apostolic age and the relation between the two. The Bible is first among our scriptural books, he stated, but the Book of Mormon is also a sacred history and proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sister Talmage dwelt upon the recent dedication of the Temple at Mesa, Arizona, telling of special services held there for the Lamanites and of prophecies in the Book of Mormon with reference to the future of that people.

In the afternoon session President Orson H. Berrett read a report of missionary activities in the District during the past six months. The following are some of the facts therein given: Within the Newcastle District are nine organized branches, namely: Blyth, Carlisle, Darlington, Middlesbrough, Gateshead,

Shildon, Sunderland, South Shields and West Hartlepool; there is one unorganized branch at Skelton-in-Cleveland. The District has a membership of 591, of whom 94 bear some office in the Priesthood. The Traveling Elders have spent 3,210 hours in tracting, have distributed 54,953 tracts, 2,457 books and pamphlets and 32 copies of the Book of Mormon. They have devoted 20,467 hours to missionary service and have engaged in 2,315 gospel conversations; 2,728 hours have been used in visiting investigators; 328 towns and villages have been thoroughly tracted and 278 meetings held since the conference last spring. There has been marked increase in tithes and in attendance at sacrament meetings. Ten persons have been baptized. Continuing, President Berrett referred to the joy that comes with a knowledge of the Gospel and urged earnest study of the Book of Mormon.

Elder Vard W. Meadows stated that no one can prayerfully read the Book of Mormon without being impressed that it is of divine origin. The work of the Prophet Joseph Smith was directed of God, and, as prophesied, his name has been known for good and evil in all the world, declared Elder Seth T. Shaw. Local Elders William Derbyshire and Frederick Oates bore earnest testimonies of the genuineness of this latter-day work and of the Book of Mormon. Elder Howard A. Stokes quoted prophecy from Ezekiel and showed its fulfilment in the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon.

The Mission President stressed the necessity of working in harmony in furthering the cause of truth. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints invites investigation and desires to be exposed to the world, he averred, and further stated that to be a Latter-day Saint is an honour.

Elder Charles J. Parkinson, first speaker in the evening session, set forth that the teachings embodied in the Book of Mormon will cause men and women to live righteously, if they will but put them into practice. That the Bible and the Book of Mormon studied together will give a fuller knowledge to those who seek truth was attested by Elder A. Vincen McKay. Elder Henry R. Price discussed the purpose of man's existence and the necessity for keeping the commandments of God. Elder Amos B. Robinson demonstrated that great blessings are derived by Latter-day Saints through having a prophet of God to direct them in their spiritual affairs. The more diligently we serve the Lord the greater will be our blessings, was among the truths proclaimed by Elder Richard L. Bird, Jr.

Sister Talmage stated that the Gospel is of worth to us only as we apply its teachings in our daily living. Pray to your Heavenly Father for divine guidance, was her closing appeal.

In conclusion President Talmage bore inspiring testimony that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that the human soul is eternal and that the purpose of the restoration of the Gospel is to pre-

pare men for the second coming of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. This time is near at hand, he said, and we should not procrastinate the day of repentance, but should lay hold upon eternal life while we have the opportunity.

Musical selections were rendered during the day by quartets from the West Hartlepool and Gateshead Branches. Meetings of the Relief Society, Mutual Improvement Association, local Priesthood and missionaries were held during the day. All sessions were well attended by both members and investigators. Accounts of favourable character were given place in the *Newcastle North Mail*, the *Sunderland Echo* and the *South Shields Gazette*.

VARD W. MEADOWS, District Clerk

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Transfers: The following missionaries have been transferred from and to the Districts specified: Elder H. Kenneth Brown, Norwich to Liverpool; Elder James H. Cantwell, Bristol to London; Elder Douglas H. Petersen, Liverpool to Norwich; Elder Merrill Sandberg, Birmingham to Leeds.

Branch Conferences: Of the Liverpool Branch, Liverpool District, on November 27th. "The Book of Mormon" was the topic of discussion in the forenoon gathering. District President David M. Kennedy, Branch President Seth W. Pixton and Elders Ralph V. Chisholm, William F. Forsey and Richard L. Evans spoke during the day.

Of the Manchester Branch, Manchester District, on November 27th. "Prophets, Prophecies and Revelation" was the subject treated in the morning session. President Kenneth A. Nielson and Elders J. Rulon Doxey, Golden W. Stewart, Rulon S. Satterfield and Alma Wakeling delivered discourses bearing upon the theme. Favourable treatment of the conference was given by the *Manchester Guardian*.

Doings in the Districts: *Birmingham*—A baptismal service was held in the Handsworth Chapel on December 3rd. Two persons were baptized by Elder Kenneth H. Smith and confirmed by Elders Laurence Peterson and Rulon F. Thompson. Elder Alva A. Ritchie gave a short address, stressing the necessity of the ordinances. All of the Traveling Elders of the District were present at the monthly missionary meeting held on December 3rd. Reports of past endeavours were of encouraging character, and instructions were received for work in the branches during the winter months. Distribution of the Book of Mormon and the holding of cottage meetings were emphasized by President Heber J. Matkin.

London—A large number of members and friends of the Church in the London District gathered on the evening of November 27th in the Surrey Masonic Hall, Camberwell, London, where a farewell social was held in honour of President Harold A. Caudland and District Clerk Hyrum J. Ward prior to their return to America. Many expressions of appreciation for the faithful service of these two departing brethren were voiced by those who met to wish them well on their way.

Newcastle—The missionaries of the Newcastle District assembled at headquarters in Sunderland on November 24th in commemoration of Thanksgiving Day. Appropriate Thanksgiving services were held; a turkey dinner was an outstanding feature of the day.

Nottingham—A District social, marking the opening for Latter-day Saint services of a commodious hall in the Eastwood Branch, was held on Saturday, December 3rd. A program, games, a one-act play and refreshments were enjoyed by the large number in attendance who represented four branches. A home gathering, under the auspices of Nottingham Branch M. I. A., was held at the residence of Branch President William Adams on November 26th. Investigators and resident members spent the evening in singing hymns and discussing gospel themes.

Scottish—At a baptismal service held at Aberdeen on December 4th two persons were baptized by Elder George W. Romney and confirmed by Elders Romney and Robert K. Whyte.

Sheffield—The missionaries of the Sheffield District convened in monthly meeting at the Latter-day Saints' Chapel, Pitsmoor, Sheffield, on November 24th; each bore earnest testimony to the divinity of the work that he is helping to advance. A social was held in the Barnsley Branch on November 25th. An unusually large number of investigators were present. Light refreshments were served by the Relief Society. Representatives from the Mutual Improvement Associations of the District met at Barnsley to discuss problems of the organizations. Plans were submitted and approved for an M. I. A. banner, which is to be awarded periodically to the most efficient Association in specified lines of activity.

Ulster—The Traveling Elders of the Ulster District convened in missionary meeting on December 2nd at Belfast. Gratifying reports of past activity were given and timely instructions received from President Kendall D. Garff.

Welsh—A farewell social in honour of Elders Harold J. Butcher and Archibald J. Anderson was held at Memorial Hall, Varteg, Mon., on the evening of December 1st. An extemporaneous program was conducted with much success. The two departing missionaries bore fervent testimony to the divinity of the work in which they have been engaged. A goodly number of friends and members were present.

NOBILITY

TRUE WORTH is in being, not seeming ;
 In doing each day that goes by
 Some little good—not in dreaming
 Of great things to do by and by ;
 For whatever men say in their blindness,
 And in spite of the fancies of youth,
 There's nothing so kingly as kindness,
 And nothing so royal as truth.

We get back our mete as we measure ;
 We cannot do wrong and feel right ;
 Nor can we give pain and gain pleasure,
 For justice avenges each slight.
 The air for the wing of the sparrow,
 The bush for the robin and wren,
 But always the path that is narrow
 And straight for the children of men.

Through envy, through malice, through hating,
 Against the world early and late,
 No jot of our courage abating,
 Our part is to work and to wait.
 And slight is the sting of his trouble
 Whose winnings are less than his worth ;
 For he who is honest is noble,
 Whatever his fortunes or birth.

ALICE CARY

DEATH

WOOTTON—Brother Matthew Wootton, a resident Elder in the Derby Branch, Nottingham District, passed away on November 21st at the age of eighty-three. Brother Wootton had been a faithful member of the Church since his baptism in 1915. Funeral services were held in the Normanton Cemetery Chapel on November 23rd under the direction of President Waldo L. Osmond. Elders Brandt D. Jorgenson and Vilace L. Radmall spoke ; President Osmond dedicated the grave.

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LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF
 LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN